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THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. ***Societies and Branches in the Union* 602.** **LAW-ABIDING.**

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The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organised into 602 Societies and Branches, under the presidentship of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN?

Notes and Comments.

Sinews of War.

The National Union is appealing for special donations to help it to carry out the special relief work it has undertaken. The whole of its organisation has been offered for relief, and the organisation will have to be kept up. On our back page will be found a coupon for the use of those who wish to give to national service through the National Union. At the same time we are inserting on page 396 a coupon for those desirous of contributing direct to the Prince of Wales's Fund.

The World our Home.

The enthusiasm with which our Societies have responded to the call for service has been met by enthusiastic approval on the part of the general public. The surprise expressed by some naïve people only shows the depth of their ignorance. We are not in the least surprised that our members should stand to their posts and redouble their work for the common weal. Our members are drawn from that class of women (to be found in all classes) who have held that the world is their home and their charge is to make it home-like. We are rejoiced to know that the offers of help made by our Societies are being on the whole well received, and in cases where suspicion or red tape are obstacles, doubtless our well-organised and capable workers will gradually remove them. We have already heard of one official who "did not want a plethora of hysterical women," but who was very glad when he found a body of women who knew what the real need was and were ready to supply it.

The Poor Middle Classes.

We hear already of considerable distress in industrial districts. From Shropshire we hear that the miners are enlisting

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has MOBILISED its forces in nearly 600 Societies for joint action with all Agencies for relief in this International Calamity.

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simply because there is no work doing. Lancashire and Yorkshire are hard hit, and in Hull the chronic misery of dockland will be intensified. But there are very many places where the first to feel the shock of war are the middle classes. We know, of course, that stockbrokers and merchants are suffering. With them suffer their clerks. Typists, stenographers, teachers of music and foreign languages, men and women occupied in the business of producing and retailing luxuries are being thrown on the homes which depended upon them for support. Journalists are among the worst sufferers. It would be well if those who are organising relief would think of these people whom a little practical sympathy might tide over a difficult time and who are least thought of in national schemes.

Especially we would appeal to those who are organising relief in all its many forms, to apply to the proper agencies for clerks, typists, book-keepers, and so forth, and to pay them for work done. It is a crazy business for corporations or societies engaged in relief actually to be driven to give relief to expert women instead of employing them at a salary.

Law of Domicile.

Women are being reminded just now by very bitter experiences of the small regard which law has for their sentiment, their dignity, their womanhood. Energetic protests have been raised by British women against the recent legislation on the subject of nationality. Now it is being borne in upon them that a woman, born and bred in England, who has always lived in England, is, if married to an "alien enemy," treated as an alien enemy. Nay, more, if her husband be dead, unless she was well-informed enough to get "naturalised" after his death, she is still an alien. And, worse still, if he is alive, but has deserted her or has so ill-used her that she has been compelled to get a separation from him, yet she is an alien and has no power to acquire a domicile of her own. At this moment, when women are offering all they have in the service of their country, some of them are feeling very bitterly that the law gives them no country. A foreign man may, if he wish, become an Englishman. There is no device by which a woman born and bred in England of English parents can retain or acquire British nationality, should she be married to a foreigner.

A Dear Enemy.

It is difficult to conceive of Mme. Rosika Schwimmer as an "alien enemy." Yet that is how astonished Londoners find her described. We remember her endless kindness to us at the time of the International Congress last year. We remember her witty speech, and her fiery enthusiasm for peace and goodwill. She has shown in her own propaganda that beauty and energy and romance can be enlisted on the side of peace. The devil will not have all the good tunes so long as women with such ideals are living and teaching. We hear with grief that, by the action of Governments in which she had no part or lot, and against which she has been an eloquent protester, she is now treated as if she were hostile to us. It is a cruel irony from which we suffer as well as she. It seems that our loss may be America's gain, and if our conditions drive Mme. Schwimmer across the Atlantic, we may hope that her work there may indirectly strengthen all the influences for good which are at work in the States for the rescue of Europe from the worst disaster.

Practical Work.

We regret that we cannot yet give details of the many schemes of relief undertaken by Societies of the National Union. Many of them are in the early stages of organisation, when the less said the better. It is not our practice loudly to announce what we "will do" until we see clearly how we are going to do it; but from reports to hand we gather that our people are working hard and co-ordinating their schemes, so as to avoid waste of all kinds. As they come into action we hope to report them. One piece of advice may be handed on to all our country societies. The fruit and vegetable crop must, as far as possible, be saved entire. By drying and bottling fruit and vegetables, and by making jam, women will be even better employed than by sewing, since in many cases carriage makes these foods too expensive.

Miss Margaret Robertson's Marriage.

On August 6th, Miss Margaret Robertson, Chief Organiser to the National Union Election Fighting Fund, was married to Dr. H. W. Hills, Lieutenant in the Special Reserve, Royal Army Medical Corps. Dr. Hills has gone with the Expeditionary Force. Mrs. Hills remains in England as one of the most valued members of the National Union, to organise relief for women and children.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS.

Mrs. Creighton, as President of the National Union of Women Workers, has sent the following letter to the Branches, and we have her permission to publish it:—

"Dear Fellow-Worker,—As it is certain that the war must cause widespread distress, as well through the general disturbance of trade and industry as through the actual loss of life in battle, it is desirable that we should consider how best our N.U.W.W. Branches may co-operate with the civic or county authorities, and other agencies, in order to prepare to meet this inevitable distress.

I would venture to suggest that each branch of the N.U.W.W. should summon a special Branch Meeting, at which to receive information as to the special needs of the district, and to consider how best individual offers of service may be secured and made use of.

"It is most desirable that help should be wisely and efficiently organised, and that overlapping, both of agencies and of the relief given, should be avoided. So far as possible, existing agencies should be used and strengthened. Education Committees, Care Committees, Schools for Mothers, C.O.S. Committees, as well as such municipal, county or parochial Committees as may be formed, will all need our help and support. Wherever a Central Committee is formed by the local authorities, our Branch should feel it to be its duty loyally to support it. If in any place sufficient action is not being taken, it would be well that the Branches of the N.U.W.W. should feel it their responsibility to supply the need.

"Mrs. Fawcett, as President of the N.U.W.S.S. is circulating an appeal for help and work to all the Branches of the N.U.W.S.S.; it is her expressed opinion that Women's Societies should use their organisations for the help of those who will be sufferers through the war, leaving, if need be, for this purpose their ordinary work. It will be well to consider her appeal alongside of any other proposals for work.

"If the Branches are able to meet and consider the steps that should be taken, it will be most useful if they are in a position to report what they have done, or purpose doing, to the Executive in September, when, if necessary, any further plans can be discussed.

"I cannot think it likely that we shall any of us feel inclined to hold our proposed Conference at Bristol; but this cannot be definitely decided till the Executive meets.

"In conclusion, I would urge upon all Branches, and through them upon all members of the N.U.W.W., that we should, in this dark hour, betake ourselves to prayer, both alone and with others. It is only in the Presence of God that we can hope to understand something of the tremendous issues of this war, and try to look upon it and upon the other nations as He looks upon them. At the International Conference at Rome we realised our common sisterhood; we must remember it through all that may happen.—Yours very sincerely,

"Louise Creighton.
"President of the N.U.W.W.

"As the office is now closed and the secretaries are away for their holidays, may I ask that any correspondence on the subject of this letter *during August* should be addressed to me?

"Hampton Court Palace, August, 1914."

HELP FOR WORKING GIRLS.

Already there is a considerable amount of unemployment among women and girls, as a result of the war. Many firms are dismissing hands, and others are placing their employees on half-pay. But steps are promptly being taken by the National Organisation of Girls' Clubs to assist those thrown out of work, a scheme having been drawn up by Mrs. Arnold Glover in connection—as a letter sent out to Club Leaders and Workers states—with "Mrs. Fawcett's Organisation to relieve those in distress during the war."

Mrs. Glover writes:—

"The office of the N.O.G.C. at 118, Great Titchfield Street, W. (near Oxford Circus), has been thrown open for the purpose of making a beginning at headquarters of a scheme that will keep the working girls knit together under what is their social and educational influence. We hope the lines we are adopting will set all the Clubs going, and that while adhering strictly to the routine of the Evening Club programme of classes and recreation, they will open their premises during the day as work centres. Through the expected grant from the National Fund the N.O.G.C. hopes to assist them to pay each girl at the rate of 1s. per day—deducting 3d. and providing a meal.

"We have already had many girls who were not Club members, so that if the National Fund supports us generously we could get the "out of work" girl included, whether a Club member or not. We shall send any girl who has not reported to a Labour Exchange straight away at once to do so, and we shall index every girl under her trade. We shall not do any work that would delay the opening of the ordinary work places; but we shall staff the office with the girls, give them simple occupations for the soldiers and for their families, and probably make some training or instruction of some sort part of the day's work. We lay great stress on the midday meal, as in this way the girl will be fit for work when it comes. We have just 600 Clubs on our books, over 300 being in London."

Club Leaders and Workers are invited to send word at once to the head office of the Organisation if any of their members are temporarily out of work, and to apply for information if they want to open similar centres of their own. The office will be open for the purpose of giving such information from 11 to 2 o'clock.

Every girl who comes should bring a note signed by her Club Leader or Worker giving her name, her club, and her particular trade.

AN UNHAPPY PHRASE.

Lord Kitchener cannot have realised how one sentence in his otherwise fine address to the troops would ring in the ears of women, or he would assuredly not have written it. Now, when all women are plunged in grief and dread; when so many women have only one thought—how best they can make good the infinite disaster; now, in modern England, we find him warning the men with the foul old tag "women and wine." It seems to us that the necessary warning might have been conveyed in manlier phrase; that the men might have been appealed to, as they left sorrowing wives, and mothers, and sisters to keep the home together, that they should respect womanhood, and not merely that they should safeguard their own health. Lord Kitchener thinks of them as fighting machines. We can never do so. To us the men have souls as well as bodies; no less, to us, have women souls as well as bodies. It is horrible to think of every man carrying in his active service pay-book, in many cases carrying to his death, a last message which is like a blow in the face to every honest woman.

Reviews.

The War of Steel and Gold. By H. N. Brailsford. (Bell. 5s. net.)

Reading this book in the light of the present terrible struggle taking place among the leading Powers of Europe, one is inevitably struck by the swift falsification of the writer's belief that "the recurrent wars of flesh and blood have been substituted for the war of steel and gold," and that "there will be no more wars among the six Powers of Europe."

The grounds on which Mr. Brailsford based this belief were the friendly settlement of differences in late years between nations by means of diplomacy, and the elaborate organisation and scientific prevision of the armed forces of potential adversaries, rendering a trial by strength superfluous. He does not, however, leave out of account in this estimate of forces making for peace, the unknown factors which might arise to precipitate hostilities, but what he pronounced to be "unthinkable" has happened. Although these fair hopes of peace have been destroyed with sudden ruthlessness, the main argument that an ever active warfare is carried on in time of peace remains unaffected by recent events.

Mr. Brailsford presents his case with clearness and simplicity, enabling the ordinary layman unversed in diplomatic and military history to follow him, step by step, through the maze and subtle intricate windings of finance in its relation to diplomacy and armaments. Not for one moment is interest abated, for there is not one dry or dull page.

The statements and conclusions in this book will, no doubt, be disputed; they challenge discussion by their fearlessness as much as they compel thoughtful consideration, because the writer has something new and original to say on this question of unrest among nations.

It would be impossible to give even a brief summary of this book; it embraces many subjects bristling with controversial points; to mention a few, there are: our constitutional machine; democratic control of foreign policy; the balance of power in Europe, and, what is of more importance, the balance of power between the few and the many in this country.

Mr. Brailsford sets out to show that the burden of armaments is maintained in the interests of capitalistic society and the governing classes; that the huge machinery of war is not intended for conquest of territory in Europe, but for use in "exploiting" new territory; to obtain concessions in half civilised countries where there are cities but no banks; routes, but no railways; profitable soil, but untilled fields, or virgin mines. These territories are the Naboth's vineyard, says Mr. Brailsford, "in which our Ahabs invest money." Bankers, financiers, investors, armament contractors, all with extensive individual interests at stake, work in alliance with Society which looks upon the Empire as a field of career for its sons, and it is they who have most to gain by armaments and war. To these forces are opposed a "half-conscious and badly led democracy," who take for their leaders men under the social pressure of the class to which they belong. The first step towards bringing about a change in this condition of things is, in the author's opinion, "to secure the effective control of the democracy over the external policy of its rulers." In order to accomplish this, democracy must be educated and taught to see clearly where it stands. Only as education advances will it be possible to acquire the means for checking the interests of the ruling class.

This is, in very rough outline, the argument of the book, and in developing it, an entirely new aspect of a problem which ought to concern every man and woman, is presented to the reader. There is a brief reference to Women's Suffrage, showing that in one respect at least, voteless women are on the same level as enfranchised men.

When the White Bird Returns is the title of a poetical vision of the future which has appeared in the *Referee* over the well-known signature of "Enid." The London Society has been kindly allowed to reprint it as a leaflet, and it can be supplied at 8d. a dozen and 4s. 6d. a hundred on application to Miss P. Strachey, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. The proceeds will be applied to the National Service, and the leaflet should have a considerable sale among Suffragists who are now concentrating on relief.

Correspondence.

ACTIVE SERVICE UNIFORM.

Madam,—While fully realising the importance of maintaining trade by making the usual purchases where possible, I would like to point out that the two guineas which Suffragists are recommended to spend on the A.S.L. uniform would be of greater advantage paid for work given out to women who are thrown out of employment. The N.U. Suffrage badge would show for which Society we are working.

Katharine Bellows,
Hon. Sec. for Whitechapel and St. George's E. Branch of L.S.

[*Our correspondent is reminded that the material can be bought and made up at home. See p.* 397.—Ed., C.C.]

The Rev. J. Theodore Dodd writes specially recommending that women should devote their attention to saving infant life, more particularly the children of unmarried mothers, among whom the mortality is double that of legitimate children.

Miss Elizabeth Woods (Hon. Sec. Woburn Sands and Apley Guise W.S.S.) urges the working people and peasantry to be as thrifty as they can during the present times, so that the country may be in as good a condition as possible after the war.

A Member of the N.U. Wilts W.S.S. writes to suggest that it may be difficult in country places where National Union members are scattered to offer their services as a body, and where this is the case she suggests that a good way to keep the Suffrage to the fore would be to send subscriptions to the Relief Funds under the title of "From a member of the ——— Women's Suffrage Society."

A GENEROUS OFFER.

The following letter has been received by Mrs. F. Fawcett:—

Dear Mrs. Fawcett,—A letter signed "E. H. Parry" in to-day's *Morning Post*, offering help from Preparatory Boys' Schools to the *sons* of officers, impels me to appeal to headmistresses to make a similar offer of help for educating the *daughters* of officers now actually serving at "The Front," and needing such assistance. Some of my pupils, living abroad, cannot return to me next term. I will gladly fill their places with the daughters of naval or military officers, who can prove

(*a*) That they are in need of such help.

(*b*) That they are now on active service.

(*c*) That their daughters are not undesirable companions for other girls of the same age.

Jessie Wight,
Constitutional Suffragist—Headmistress of a Private School.

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager*, The Common Cause, 2, *Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

How the Nation Treats the Soldier's Family.

By a Member of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association.

It has been widely stated that people at home will not allow the families of our sailors and soldiers to suffer financially by the absence of their relatives at the front.

The facts are these:—

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association has issued a leaflet of instructions to workers, and, on the first page, it lays down the following general principles:—

(*a*) The number of families to be helped will probably be greatly in excess of those needing assistance in the last war.

(*b*) The wealthy and charitable will not, owing to the disturbance of trade, commerce, and industry, have at their disposal large resources available for charitable purposes.

It has decided, therefore, at the outset of what may be a prolonged war that payment cannot be made by the Association on the scale authorised during the Boer War. No family is to receive help from the Association whose weekly income from all sources exceeds 12s. 6d. for a wife and 2s. for each child, with a maximum of £1, except in London cases, where the rate may be exceeded owing to the heavy rents.

One must remember that this allowance is not likely to go as far as at ordinary times owing to the increase in the price of food.

A soldier's wife in time of war may have two sources of income. If her husband is an army reservist, or married on the strength of his regiment, she gets a "separation" allowance of 7s. 7d. a week for herself, with 1s. 2d. a week for each child, for boys till they are fourteen, and girls till they are sixteen. Mr. Asquith said, on Monday, August 10th, in the House of Commons, that these war separation allowances would be paid as well to families of soldiers married "off the strength."

The second source of income is "allotment" of pay. A soldier sends what he likes to his wife when he is serving in this country. When he is abroad, the Government deducts and sends to his wife 3s. 6d. of his weekly pay, with 7d. for each child, as long as the total does not exceed 5s. 3d. Beyond this the Government will not go without the husband's consent.

The maximum Government allowance made to a wife is, therefore, when she is entitled to separation allowance *and* compulsory allotment, which is by no means always the case, 11s. 1d. a week with extra for each child. Wives not entitled to separation allowance get 3s. 6d. only a week, with 7d. extra for each child.

Now, as a rule, a private drawing a field ration gets only 1s. a day if he is in the infantry, and 1s. 2d. if he is in the cavalry. It is clear, therefore, that he cannot supplement his wife's income to any appreciable extent by "voluntary" allotment, since after compulsory allotment is deducted, very little of his pay is left.

Sailors get from £23 to £43 a year. Their wives get neither separation allowance nor compulsory allotment. Though their husbands are able to give them more voluntary

allotment than a soldier, they can hardly be described as able to give their families enough to live on decently.

It is clear, therefore, that it is left to charity to supplement the incomes of the families of soldiers and sailors.

Many firms have come forward with help for the wives of their employees. Sometimes they give 10s. a week, sometimes half the husband's wages, sometimes more ; but the fact remains that some firms are doing nothing at all. It is a general rule amongst firms, as far as I can understand, not to give money to dependents other than wives. Thus a mother dependent on her unmarried son may get nothing.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association steps in to deal with cases where the income is especially low, and brings it up to 12s. 6d. for a wife, with 2s. for each child, with a maximum of £1, as already stated. It also relieves the mothers. It does not allow anything for children born before marriage ; but the local Committee on which the writer serves has decided to allow for adopted children.

One of the rules of the Association runs thus :—

"In the case of a wife or a dependent relative not in receipt of a compulsory allotment, help from the Association must cease if no regular voluntary allotment is made within two months of men serving abroad, and within one month of those serving at home, from the date when the first application has been made or is made for help."

This proviso is doubtless a precaution against cases which are not *bonâ-fide;* but they put a wife strangely at the mercy of a bad husband.

Taking into consideration every point connected with the pay of soldiers and sailors, one cannot help feeling that it is a scandal that men who are making so much personal sacrifice for their country should at the same time in many instances have to sacrifice the well-being of their families.

It does not require much penetration to see that the present system means that the men who go to the front *are* taxed to the extent of the difference between their income during the war and their income in time of peace. The difference is often very substantial. The double burden ought not to fall on the same class.

POINTS TO REMEMBER.

Since the help of our organisation has been offered to the local authorities everywhere and since many women will be on the local Emergency Committees, we have thought it of practical use to give a few of the most important points in the Local Government Board circular so that women may know exactly what to watch for and where powers may be asked for. We draw attention particularly to the following points. The Local Emergency Committee has two main duties : (*a*) to prevent distress through unemployment; (*b*) to relieve distress should it occur.

In the *prevention of distress*, remember :—

(1) That where a Distress Committee (under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905) exists, it has power to find work for women as well as for men, and money for such schemes may be provided by the Board of Trade.

(2) Where there is no Distress Committee, work on the same lines may be started by the Emergency Committee, and money provided by the Local Government Board.

In the *relieving of distress*, remember :—

(1) The Emergency Committee is to keep a register of assistance, therefore any person or organisation giving relief should keep in touch with the Committee.

(2) Persons who have been for a continuous period in receipt of Poor Relief should be left to the Board of Guardians as before.

(3) School children will be fed by the Local Education Authority.

(4) Cases which cannot be dealt with under (1), (2), or (3) will have a claim to the Prince of Wales's Fund.

In the appointment of the Emergency Committees it should be remembered that the Local Government Board is anxious that women should be represented on them and that the services of women should be enlisted.

SOME SOCIETIES ORGANISING RELIEF.

Among the many Societies which are undertaking to do organised relief work during the war are the following :—

The British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union is anxious to help the children of the poor in London. The Hon. Sec., Miss Harriet Newcomb, c.o., International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, London, W., has issued an appeal to the women and girls in the Dominions Overseas to make children's garments, the leaders in each of the women's organisations to arrange for the collection and dispatch of the clothes.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C., has put its organisation at the disposal of the authorities.

The Helpers' Register, Friends' Meeting House, Mercer's Road, Holloway Road, N., is ready to give any information as to where and how people can best render assistance to sufferers through the war.

GIRL GUIDES.

There has been a good deal lately in the newspapers about the Boy Scouts, and it is interesting to know that the Girl Guides have been no less quick and eager than their brothers to offer their services during the war. The work of the Girl Guides—there are from ten to fifteen thousand of them—is of a decidedly practical nature, and those who are working under Red Cross nurses and at temporary hospitals are of very great assistance, being ready to do anything in the way of fetching and carrying, running messages, scrubbing the floors, and washing up. Some, under the supervision of experienced women, are busy with laundry work, cooking and sewing, while others not only wash and mend the shirts of Territorials, but have also undertaken to darn their socks. When required, they are willing to assist families in distress, look after children while the mother is away at work, and help at soup kitchens and crèches—in fact, they will do what they can to be of use.

Anyone in charge of a branch of the Red Cross nurses and desiring the services of the Girl Guides should write to the Secretary at 116, Victoria Street, London, S.W. They can rely on obtaining really efficient help from the girls.

ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE.

All members of the National Union engaged in the organised relief of distress are urged, if possible, to wear the Active Service League uniform, which consists of a dark green coat and skirt and a green felt hat with a badge. This uniform can be obtained from the following firms :—

Dark green coat and skirt, 2 guineas complete, from Messrs. Swan & Edgar, Piccadilly Circus, W.

Material for the same (any length cut), 2s. 6½d. per yard, from South Devon Serge Warehouse, Teignmouth. (Carriage paid value over 10s.).

Hats (complete with badge), 4s. 9d. Ties in the colours of the N.U., 1s. 3d. Carriers (guaranteed waterproof), 3s. 9d. Badges : ribbon, 3d. ; leather, 5d. To be had from Messrs. Parnell & Co., Wilton Road and Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, S.W. (Carriage paid value over 5s.)

Societies are requested to send direct to these firms, enclosing remittance, as the above prices are strictly cash. Should the orders not exceed specified value, postage must also be remitted.

There may be a good many people who do not wish to buy any new clothes at the present moment, but it may be a comparatively easy matter for these to have an old coat and skirt dyed the regulation colours, and anyone desiring to do this can obtain a pattern from the National Union Headquarters. Our work will speak for itself, and the uniform should connect it with the organisation and the cause so dear to us all.

SOME USEFUL ADDRESSES.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W., and 50, Parliament Street, Whitehall, S.W., is registering voluntary workers and sending unemployed persons to the nearest Labour Bureaux and employment agencies.

The London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W., is also registering workers and giving information.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, 7, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C., is organising help for foreign women stranded in England.

For other addresses see last week's "C.C.," page 389.

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RED WHITE & BLUE
For BREAKFAST & AFTER DINNER.
In making, use LESS QUANTITY, it being so much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.

Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

Hyde Park Meetings.

On Sunday, 16th inst, the National Union meetings in Hyde Park, interrupted for one week, were resumed. At first it seemed that the continuous passing of troops and ambulances in Oxford Street would draw off the whole audience, but soon after 3.30 these ceased, and almost by magic a huge crowd collected round our cart and listened with obvious sympathy and approval to the story of what the National Union is doing now. It was a grave, silent crowd, touched with the solemnity of what it had just seen. It was a crowd worth speaking to. We are not spending money just now on public meetings in halls, but in this great free meeting-house of Hyde Park we may touch our fellows and share our experiences and aspirations.

Literature Department.

A very useful little pamphlet for those undertaking relief work is "The Poor and their Rights—How to obtain them," by J. T. Dodd (published by P. S. King & Son. 6d. net.).

The large "Mobilisation" Poster, size 8 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft., in three sheets, may now be obtained. The price of the poster is 1s. 6d.

Treasurer's Appeal.

The past week has been a period of intense activity—an activity which increases day by day as the magnitude of the task that lies before the women of our country comes more clearly into view.

One may well be thankful to have at hand in the present emergency so useful an instrument as the organisation of the National Union, and owing to the fact that our machinery is always working at full pressure and is never allowed to get rusty or out of repair, we have been able to commence work in all directions without an instant's delay. There has been no hitch or flurry, above all, no waste of effort, and because our organisation was ready to deal with every offer of service, none have had to be refused.

The decision of the Union to use its organisation for the relief of distress caused by the war has met with universal approval, but we must now say one word as to the means of carrying out the special work we have undertaken. The one great and immediate need will be the need for money.

We must recognise as a first necessity that we shall require to maintain our organisation at full pitch for many months to come. To maintain it for the next six months will cost a considerable amount of money, and the Executive Committee has therefore already been obliged to vote the necessary sums. To name only one of the many necessary items for which funds must be provided so long as the need lasts, we may mention the cost of the special premises opened as the Headquarters of the Suffrage Active Service League at 50, Parliament Street, from where much practical and useful work has already been planned and executed. It must, however, be remembered that by using our funds for maintaining our organisation at the present time, we are also making a substantial and valuable contribution to the country in the great task of relieving suffering and distress.

Many as are the appeals for money at the present time, we believe Suffragists will take a special pride in sending contributions to the Active Service Fund, knowing that the money we expend will be used with the greatest care and economy, and with the sole object of obtaining the best possible results. Send your donations as soon as possible, earmarked for the Active Service Fund, to the Hon. Treasurer, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

Helena Auerbach.

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1	5	0
Received to August 18th:—			
Miss Selene Whittuck		5	0
Mrs. H. Weston Eve	5	0	0
Miss P. G. Fawcett	1	8	0
Anonymous		2	6
Mrs. Morgan Browne	1	0	0
Miss Hilda K. Morgan Browne	1	0	0
Miss A. E. Ridsdale	1	0	0
Mrs. Webster	5	0	0
Mrs. Lilian Fletcher	2	0	0
Mrs. S. E. Maltby		5	0
A Friend	50	0	0
Miss L. F. Morison	20	0	0
Mr. T. Theodore Dodd	1	1	0
Miss E. S. Buchheim	1	0	0
Miss Joan Parsons		10	0
Rev. L. Hodgson		5	0
Mrs. Auerbach	25	0	0
	£116	1	6

WHAT OUR SOCIETIES ARE DOING TO HELP.

A Few Representatives Reports.

So many reports have been received of work undertaken by Societies of the N.U., that we are only able to print a few, which are representative of distinct pieces of work.

Military Authorities Welcome Suffragists' Help.

Our Organiser in Shetland writes:—

"Propaganda work has come to a standstill, everyone being too much concerned about the calling out of the Reserves to think of anything apart from the war. There is no Red Cross Society or V.A.D. here, so at my suggestion the Suffrage Society has initiated a scheme for obtaining voluntary aid for the nurses and collecting beds, &c., should a naval engagement take place near the Islands. Our proposal has met with a hearty response; the whole district is being asked to send requisites, and we have secured the Deep Sea Fishermen's Depôt.

"On the arrival of Colonel Evans, the commander of the fort, our work received a fresh impetus, for he said he was delighted with all we had done, and we are now working hand in hand with the military authorities. There is still plenty to do here, as the Town Council has left everything in our hands, and besides sewing parties we are giving three hours' of instruction daily in cooking, bedmaking, &c., and our visitors are collecting money and materials both in the town and all over the islands. There are only two steamers a week now, and they are fearfully crowded; everyone who sails has to give details as to birth, age, &c. Thirty German trawlers were taken near Orkney on the 6th and on the 12th. Two German steamers were taken in one of the Voes."

A Very Different Welcome.

From another of our Societies we hear a very different tale:

"A town meeting was called by the High Steward (Anti) to elect a Committee 'to deal with distress arising among the wives and children of soldiers and sailors.' No other object was mentioned. At the door women were met by an excited doctor who said: 'What are you doing here? This is a meeting for men only; no women are wanted.' Fortunately, some other men came up, and the Conservative candidate took the women in with him. The High Steward then announced that a Committee of sixteen men had been nominated by the Town Council, and asked the meeting to ratify the nomination. A lawyer (Suffragist) protested that no women were included, and the meeting obviously agreed with the protest. Another man (one of our members) suggested that ten ladies should be elected then and there. This was refused, but a hope expressed that the Committee would co-opt some women at its first meeting. It met again—a well-known "Anti" in the chair. No women have been co-opted so far, but one woman (a Suffragist) has been appointed to serve on the Sub-Committee."

The "C. C." correspondent of the North-Eastern Federation writes:—

"Workers in this Federation are thoroughly alive to the importance not only of doing the practical work of nursing, making garments, and relieving starvation, but of the fact, of such vital interest to us as Suffragists, that it is a loss to the country if qualified women are not given the opportunity of service on the managing committees, as well as of manual work. The large towns in the Federation, though few, are yet sufficient in number to afford an interesting study at their town's meetings of the various stages of women's progress. A grammarian might classify them as the Present, the Past, and the Past Anterior. Citizens, and Mayors, of the third class, would prefer to have us confine our work to shirt-making—under their directions—but, at the request of the Local Government Board, they elect a few 'ladies,' with the painfully familiar joke. Those who are merely of the Past elect their women with honour, but still consider it necessary to applaud their work as something specially admirable and unusual. Those of the Present—and we are glad to find so many among us—mean to choose capable citizens to serve their town, and elect the right person without comment, or regard to sex.

"The women of Newcastle-on-Tyne, under the leadership of Dr. Ethel Williams, Chairman of the local branch of the N.U.W.S.S., offered to the Lord Mayor to organise a classification of the voluntary helpers of the city. The offer was accepted, and members are already hard at work in an office in the Town Hall. A donation of £220 from Miss Peile, of Shotley Bridge, for the purposes of organisation in the Federation, and other donations for relief work, have been a very great encouragement and help.

"The danger of adding, by injudicious efforts, to the sad number of women unemployed was quickly apparent, and a meeting of representatives of women's organisations is to take place, at the request of our Chairman, for the purpose of discussing the matter, and taking any action which may seem to them desirable."

The London Society.

In thirteen of the Boroughs the London Society's local representatives have already definitely arranged to give organised assistance to the relief authorities; in one case their corporate help has been refused, and in the remaining fourteen Boroughs the arrangements are not yet complete. In the suburban area six of the Society's local Committees are co-operating in the relief organisation.

On August 4th an emergency committee of the Ealing Branch offered its organisation to the Mayor, and, through its medium, the first notice of the wants of the proposed local military hospital was posted up that very same night. The announcement at a crowded Town Hall meeting of the action of the Society—which was the only organisation in Ealing to offer its services to the Mayor in this way—was greeted with great applause. At a special meeting of the Town Council six members of the Society were elected on the first list of the National Aid Committee.

Suffragists on Relief Committees.

Full returns are not yet available as to the number of women serving on Relief Committees and the proportion of Suffragists, but we publish the following as a first instalment:—

Ascot.—One member of W.S.S. on Local Committee of National Relief Fund.

Bedford.—W.S.S. represented at preliminary meeting by two members. Six other women on Committee, representing various Societies.

Birkenhead.—Seven women on the Citizens' Committee. One man a member of the W.S.S.

Birmingham.—One member on Relief Fund Committee in private capacity.

Bournemouth.—Society represented on Central Committee.

Bradford.—Three members out of five on Central Relief Committee belong to the W.S.S.; and one member out of seven on the Central Committee for Reservists' Wives and Children.

Bristol.—Two members of W.S.S. on Relief Fund Committee; one member on each of Ward Sub-Committees.

Bucks (Mid).—No woman on County Relief Committee, but this body has "power to co-opt ladies."

Cambridge.—Two members, Mrs. Rackham and Mrs. Heitland, represent the W.S.S., and six out of seven women on the local Ex. Committee of Relief Fund are members. All are on one or another of the Sub-Committees.

Canterbury.—Ten women on Distress Committee, one a member of W.S.S. One man on Committee also a member.

Cheltenham.—One "Friend" of W.S. on Citizens' Committee, out of five women.

Cirencester.—No women on Committee.

Clitheroe.—Two members representing the Society are on the Distress Committee.

Cockermouth.—No reply to letter to Chairman of Distress Committee offering services. Women members of Suffrage and Anti-suffrage Societies attended a meeting of men, and two women—both "Anti's"—put on a Distress Committee of twelve members.

Croydon.—Three members of W.S.S. on Relief Committee (nine women and forty-one men).

Felixstowe.—Secretary of W.S.S. on Relief Committee.

Folkestone.—Four women on Committee of twenty-one, of whom at least two are "Anti's." The Secretary of the W.S.S. wrote twice to the Mayor, but obtained only evasive answers.

Glasgow.—Three members of the W.S.S. on Citizens' Committee, and one member of W.S.P.U. out of five women.

Godalming.—Two members of local Society on Relief Committee.

N. Hackney.—One member of W.S.S. and one other Suffragist on Committee.

Herne Bay.—Treasurer of W.S.S. represents the Society on Relief Committee, of which Chairman of the Society acts as Hon. Secretary. Two other members of the Society are also on the Committee, and three more women, of whom one belongs to the Church League.

This Society hopes to form a Women's Committee to deal with maternity cases and children.

Herts (East).—Two members on Relief Committee.

Herts (West).—Three members on Citizens' Committee, but not as representing the Society. The Committee consists of thirty members, of whom seven are women.

Honiton.—No women on Committee.

Hurstpierpoint.—Two members and seven other women on Committee.

Hyde.—Nine women members of W.S.S. and three men members on Citizens' Committee. Two other women members of the W.S.S. on Sick Nursing Classes Committee.

Innerleithen.—Five members of the W.S.S. on Relief Committee, out of nine women. The Convener of the Ladies' Committee is the President of the W.S.S., and both the Secretary and Treasurer are on the Committee.

Largs.—One member of W.S.S. on Citizens' Committee, out of seven women.

Letchworth.—Three members co-opted on to Committee.

Lincoln.—Two members on Relief Committee (out of eight women). Seven other members on Ward Committees.

Maidstone.—On the Committee of Clothing Fund, which is administered entirely by women, there are ten membrs of the W.S.S. and three "Friends."

Manchester.—Three members on the Citizens' Committee and one member of the W.S.P.U., out of ten women.

Middlesbrough.—President and Vice-President of Society on Citizens' Committee, and the Society is represented on the Guild of Help.

Newbury.—One member on the Local Relief Committee.

Oxford.—Nineteen members of the W.S.S. on Citizens' Committee (twenty-five women out of eighty-four members). On the Ex. and sub-Committees there are thirteen women, of whom five are members of the W.S.S.

Perth.—Two members W.S.S. on Relief Committee, out of six women.

Rawtenstall.—One member of W.S.S. out of eight women on Committee.

Rugby.—W.S.S. represented on Relief Committee. Also two members on Committee in private capacity, and one other woman.

Shropshire.—Mrs. Harley represents the W.S.S. on Relief Fund Committee and on Citizens' Committee for Shrewsbury.

Sutton Coldfield.—Five members of W.S.S. and two other women on Mayor's Committee, and three more women have been proposed for Sub-Committees.

Teignmouth.—Member of W.S.S. on Needlework Committee.

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WANTED, house-parlourmaid; one child no drawback.—Apply, Mrs. Corbett, Danehill, Sussex.

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